

CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Reports Cover Sheet

Title of Report:	An update on the work of the Increasing Equality Commission
Date of meeting:	22nd March 2022
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Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Cllr Jill Rhodes / Dr Matt Tyrer

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Why is the report being brought to the board?	To bring the Board up to date with the work of the Commission, established by the Board in October 2020.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?	Creating a place that supports health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Enable more people to live well for longer <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	Equality and Fairness <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the work of the Increasing Equality Commission To continue to support the Commission through staff time and engagement 		
Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	N/A		

<p>Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.</p>	<p>The Commission's current focus is on Crewe and in the medium to long term the work that is being undertaken should contribute to a reduction in health inequalities in the town. The Commission will oversee the publication of a Strategy setting out actions that can be taken by partners to begin to address the issues contributing to those inequalities.</p>

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to the establishment of the Increasing Equality Commission in October 2020. Since then, the Commission has met seven times. At its March 2021 meeting it agreed to initially focus on Crewe, where there are the most significant inequalities in the borough. Work is underway to prepare a strategy for reducing inequalities in Crewe which will be published in the late summer of 2022. A wide range of partners are directly involved or have contributed to workshops to add to the knowledge base to inform the thinking and strategy development.
- 1.2 In addition the Commission is taking the lead on the work to support the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System's ambition to become a Marmot Community (supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting in November 2021).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board notes the work of the Increasing Equality Commission to date.
- 2.2 The Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board and its constituent partners continue to support the work of the Commission.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To bring the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board up to date with the work of the Commission.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 Reducing health inequalities is a key ambition of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Cheshire East Place Five Year Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 In October 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Board received a report on health inequalities in Cheshire East that recommended the setting up of a Commission to bring together partners

to focus on what might be done to reduce inequalities in the borough. The Board agreed to the establishment of the Commission and Cllr Jill Rhodes agreed to act as the Chair.

- 5.2 The first meeting of the Commission took place in December 2020 and in March 2021 the Terms of Reference, scope of work and initial focus were agreed. Having considered the evidence for Cheshire East, the view was that Crewe needed to be the priority area for the Commission's attention, with the levels and degree of inequality being greater than elsewhere in the borough. The membership of the Commission was then widened to draw in appropriate partners (see Appendix 1 for list of members).
- 5.3 The subsequent Commission meetings then began to explore in detail the evidence for inequalities in Crewe and to hear from experts in different areas (for example housing, children and families and green spaces), to inform thinking and discussion. In November / December 2021 a series of virtual workshops were held covering the following areas:
- Skills development
 - Early life interventions
 - Employment and work
 - Transport and active travel
 - Ill health prevention
 - Resilient communities
- 5.4 These provided an opportunity for more people to get involved in the work of the Commission, providing information about initiatives underway or planned that might contribute to reducing inequalities, widening the shared knowledge base of members and making critical connections between projects and programmes of work to maximise the potential impacts.
- 5.5 The Commission is intending to publish a strategy for reducing inequality in Crewe in the late summer. This will set out actions that, over the next five to ten years will (all being well) contribute to a reduction in inequalities. Much of this will be connected to the effective joining up of already planned infrastructure projects and other proposed developments and interventions that will provide good jobs, opportunities for better paid work, improved educational attainment and skills development, better housing, access to green spaces and enhanced active travel provision.
- 5.6 The key role of the Commission is to connect the pieces, raise awareness and encourage all to think about how their work can contribute to the reduction of inequalities. Taking ownership of the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System's 'Marmot Community' programme, will further support this work, but also start to prepare for the next phase of the Commission's work looking at other parts of the borough (for example the work on healthy ageing and inequality in rural areas).
- 5.7 The next stages in relation to Crewe include review and synthesis of evidence and workshop feedback to date, gap filling (for example we want to look at evidence for impact of gambling), further partner and resident engagement and the drafting of the strategy. Chapter authors have been identified and first drafts are being prepared.

5.8 A further update on progress will be brought to the Board in the late spring with the draft Strategy.

6 Access to Information

6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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